**IIUM Globalisation and WTO Unit**

IIUM Globalisation and WTO Unit was established in 2003. It is the crystallization of the vision of the teaching staff of the Faculty of Economics and Management Sciences and the Faculty of Laws who have been actively involved in research and consultancy in the area of international trade and laws for a number of years. Their keen interest in these issues and networking with professionals, technocrats, policy-makers and practitioners has led them to establish this Unit. The Unit serves as an effective forum for exchange of ideas and conducting research on contemporary trade, and WTO-related issues in a multi-disciplinary setting.

The Unit also works closely with a number of policy-making agencies. It is the first and only one of its kind in Malaysia (in terms of its specific focus on WTO-related issues). The Unit also interacts internationally with various agencies, institutions and leading experts in the field. It is also a member of the Asia WTO Research Network (a regional research network) based in Japan.

The objectives of the Unit are as follows:

1. To serve as a platform for inter-disciplinary teaching, discussion and research on globalization and WTO.
2. To encourage networking among academics from different disciplines.
3. To stimulate public debates, intellectual discourse and seminars on the WTO and the effects of globalization.
4. To provide inputs and recommendations for policy formulation.
5. To offer consultancy work to various agencies.
6. To establish links with local and international organizations.

Former Malaysian Ambassador to the WTO, Datuk M. Supperamaniam is an Advisor to the Unit. He enriches the Unit with insights and understanding gained through his experience at the Ministry or Trade and Industry and the WTO and also makes an invaluable contribution by bridging the gap between the academics and policy-makers.

The Unit frequently organizes seminars, workshops, talks and invites experts from within Malaysia and overseas for these programs. Since the establishment of the Unit, it has undertaken a wide range of activities and has also been approached by various parties to undertake a number of activities and it seems that the Unit will have to be expanded into a Centre in the near future. Given the growing need for the expertise and opportunities that the Unit offers, it is our aspiration to eventually become an Institute that would contribute to regional and international capacity-building efforts.

One of the aims of the Unit is to create awareness among the relevant parties about WTO-related issues and educate them to deal with these issues in light of the rules and requirements of the WTO agreements. In this regard the Unit has been actively involved in organising various activities including public lectures, national seminars, research and publications as well as undergraduate and postgraduate courses and theses.

The members of the WTO and Globalization Unit are experts on WTO and world trade related issues. The members are as follows:

1. Dr. Rokiah Alavi – Coordinator of the Unit. Her expertise is in the area of international trade, industrialization policy and WTO issues. Attached to the Department of Economics.
2. Prof. Dr. Ida Madieha Abdul Ghani – specializing in Intellectual Property Laws and attached to the Faculty of Laws. She has been involved in many legal reform committees involving various issues on intellectual property under the aegis of the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs.
3. Prof. Dr. Ahmad Kamal Nik Mahmod - his area of specialisation is in public law, namely, administrative law, industrial relations law, constitutional law and criminal law. His area of expertise is on labour and industrial relations law focussing on international labour standards.
4. Prof. Dr. Ruzita Mohd. Amin – area of specialization is international trade and social economics.
5. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Arif Zakaullah - his research interests are in the areas of development, political economy and globalization and he has published in these areas.
6. Prof. Dr. Abdul Haseeb Ansari - his special interest areas are Environmental Law and Revenue Law.
7. Prof. Dr. Hunud Abia Kadouf – area of interests - Land/Property and Environmental Law.
8. Prof. Dr. Abdul Ghafur Hamid @ Khin Maung Sein – specialized in international trade law.